

Message Text

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16

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 MC-02 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

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R 291850Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7488

INFO USCINCSO

DOD/ISA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5265

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS MILI BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN REQUEST TO MODIFY FMS CREDIT FOR
PUCHASE OF LEAR JET

REF: LA PAZ 4938- SUBJECT IAGS BOLIVIAN MANNING LEVELS

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT BOLIVIA HAS REQUESTED BY NOTE FROM ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE A CHANGE IN THE FY 74 FMS CREDIT FOR \$4 MILLION TO PURCHASE A LEAR JET RATHER THAN THE FINAL NUMBER OF CONVAIR 580'S. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE US SUPPLIER WITH WHOM THE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE WAS DEALING ON THE CONVAIR 580'S WAS UNABLE TO MAKE GOOD ON THE DELIVERY OF THE FINAL TWO UNITS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE BAF BECAME EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING ITS CAPABILITY FOR PERFORMING HIGH ALTITUDE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC MAPPING. THE DATA TO BE COLLECTED WILL BE USED FOR MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, HIGHWAY AND RAILROAD LOCATION STUDIES, AND FOR OTHER INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. THE BOLIVIAN GEOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION, GEOBOL, HAS INFORMED US THAT IT HAS SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT WHICH IT INTENDS TO USE IN THE LEAR JET IN ASSOCIATION WITH ITS SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES FOR GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION. IN REFTEL THE EMBASSY HAS DESCRIBED ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN IAGS AND THE GOB,
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LOOKING TOWARD AN ACCELERATION OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC

MAPPING OF BOLIVIA. THE LEAR JET WILL FACILITATE THE CAPACITY OF THE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS COUNTRY TO COMPLETE A NATIONAL MAP.

2. WHILE THE LEAR JET CAN BE USED AS AN EXECUTIVE TRANSPORT, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT IS THE SERIOUS INTENTION OF THE BAF TO USE IT TO MEET DOMESTIC DEMANDS FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC MAPPING. WE BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE AIRCRAFT WHICH THE BAF CURRENTLY POSSESSES COULD BE RE-CONFIGURED TO PERFORM AERIAL MAPPING, BUT THE LEAR JET, IN THE STRONGLY-HELD OPINION OF THE BAF, IS A MORE SUITABLE AIRCRAFT.

3. WE SUGGEST THAT US AUTHORITIES, IN DISCUSSING THE LEAR JET ACQUISITION WITH THE BOLIVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, STRESS THE NEED FOR SPARE PARTS AND SUPPORT TRAINING FOR THE LEAR JETS WHICH WAS OVERLOOKED BY THE BAF IN THE PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE CONVAIR 580'S.

4. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE BAF HAS MADE A FIRM DECISION TO ACQUIRE THE LEAR JET AND WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS DECISION, SINCE THIS IS AN FMS CREDIT TO BE REPAID AND THERE IS A VALID JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF THE LEAR JET, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE CHANGE REQUESTED IN THE USE OF A 1974 FMS CREDIT BE APPROVED.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDIT, AIRCRAFT SALES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAPAZ05265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750262-0169
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750713/aaaaalny.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LA PAZ 4938
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOLIVIAN REQUEST TO MODIFY FMS CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF LEAR JET
TAGS: MASS, MILI, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006